Wayland, Francis, 1796-1865 Address at Library, Wayland Mass. August 26, 1850 (A13444)

One of the occasions becoming so common in N. England when we meet to celebrate the accomplishment of an important object. The completion of a R.R. The close of a century in the history of a town, the 88th year of the life of a pastor &c

This is like then but peculiar.

It is the taking a new & important step in the prospects of civilization.

What did the puritans do?

1. Establish schools universally.-

Latin schools.

Colleges:-

The designs-

- 1. To enable every man to read write & cipher
- 2. To provide for Professional men specially clergymen the means of education.-

This has been done. Its results.

This knowledge has been generally diffused. Professional men in abundance. It has spread over the whole country. Every State has its college. __120__ Every Northern state has its school. To have none is an opprobrium.

This act has [fired?] the character of the U States.

But as in all the work of benevolence one successful step renders another one opening.-A vast field of knowledge has been opened which was then undiscovered. It belongs specially to the operative classes. Hence new schools & new modifications of older ones.-

effect of machinery on working men. Less severe labor, more leisure, cheap books Library in schools [?]

But more. You have taught men to read. There is knowledge in abundance but men cannot [?] the number of large libraries. He must have books.-

Chemistry. Agriculture. Manufacture Physiology. – [animal?]. History. Biography. Literature.

He needs to understand his priorities to develop his mind.

Why should he not

Carpenter

Shoemaker

Blacksmith.-

Thus talent is developed

[Napoleon Darwin?]

He cannot practice them himself. He must unite with others.-



This as good as if it were done by every one.

Books generally wasted. Never worn out, rarely read more than once.-Here they will be used by all.-

Thus you have taken the step that was ever needed in advance of your fathers.-

You have done more. You have moved the state on this subject. They have authorized each Town L[ibrary?]- Thus acknowledging the principles that every one is under obligation to provide for the intellectual cultures of all. The true polity for N. [E.?]

1. We [sell?] labor. The more skill & intelligence in it the higher price will it bring.

We can influence the other states not by our wealth or protestation but by our intelligence. This is for the good of the whole.

This must spread
Other towns must follow your example.The state will show an example to the Union.-

What a spectacle. if this were universal.

Every citizen not only able to read but having within his reach the means of self development.

So on with it. Let its results be seen. You provide roads You take care of health cultivate intellect & morals.-

Whatever others may do you have set the example.

The law of Massachusetts respecting Town Libraries

May it be enacted by every state in the Union & by every land on earth.

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